

COLLEGE CLOSES BRILLIANT YEAR.

COMMENCEMENT EXERCISES WERE EXCEEDINGLY INTERESTING.

And Were Greatly Enjoyed
By a Large Number
of Visitors.

THE COMMENCEMENT SERMON.

Mississippians generally love the Industrial Institute and College, but the feeling of affection for the grand institution, for its honored president, for the noble and conscientious men and women who constitute its faculty, and for the brave and ambitious young ladies who are taking advantage of the opportunity which it affords to prepare themselves for strenuous and useful lives is especially strong within the hearts of the people of Columbus, and commencement Sunday is always an eventful day in the city. Last Sunday was an ideal commencement day and the crowd that gathered in the chapel at eleven o'clock in the morning to hear the commencement sermon, which was delivered by Rev. Peter G. Sears, of Meridian, filled the building to overflowing.

The chapel was tastefully decorated in white and old gold, the colors of the college, while the rostrum was flanked on all sides by waving palms, the whole producing a most beautiful and artistic effect. The exercises were opened with an invocation by Rev. Dunbar H. Ogden, which was followed with a vocal solo The Choir Invisible, by Miss Mattie Lou Brown, whose melodious voice is always heard with rare pleasure whenever she consents to sing. After the reading of a passage in the scriptures by Rev. T. W. Lewis, Mr. Sears was introduced by President Kincannon, and selecting as his subject, "The Power of God in Everything," delivered what is conceded by all who heard it to be one of the most masterful sermons ever listened to in Columbus. Mr. Sears is not only a gifted orator, but a ripe scholar, and his sermon was forceful, logical and instructive. He was attentively listened to and impressed his congregation most favorably indeed. At the conclusion of the sermon there was another solo, after which the congregation was dismissed with benediction by Rev. Robert M. Barnwell.

MEETING OF Y. W. C. A.

On Sunday evening Mr. Sears again spoke at the college, addressing on this occasion the Young Women's Christian Association. After the exercises had been formally opened with prayer, Miss Eugenia Dixon sang "The Holy City." This song has been heard in Columbus on many occasions, but never was it more beautifully rendered than on last Sunday night. Miss Dixon's sweet and sympathetic voice has been heard quite frequently at the college during the past two years. On each occasion she has acquitted herself most creditably, and the truly artistic manner in which she sung Sunday night gained for her fresh laurels, and added largely to her already lengthy list of admirers. Mr. Sears' sermon on Sunday night was as eloquent and as erudite as the one which preceded it in the forenoon, and was listened to with much profitable pleasure by a large congregation, who, at its close, were dismissed with benediction by Rev. Dunbar H. Ogden.

GRADUATING EXERCISES.

The graduating exercises occurred in the college chapel at 10:30 o'clock Monday morning, the exercises being opened by the singing of the college song by a number of young ladies, who walked to the rostrum bear-

ing on their shoulders a huge wreath of ferns and evergreens. A prayer was offered by Rev. Dr. Sears. Miss Eugenia Dixon sang a beautiful soprano solo, entitled "Poppies," in a most exquisite manner, after which Hon. E. F. Noel, the orator of the occasion, was introduced by Mr. Kincannon. In his introduction Mr. Kincannon paid a glowing tribute to the state, and her rapid advancement in every line, and especially in the model laws which are on her statute books. He said that Mr. Noel was one of the most prominent men instrumental in making those laws and was therefore in a large degree responsible for the present splendid method under which our great state is governed. Mr. Noel took for his subject "The Use of Opportunities," and the theme of his address tended to show that our success in life depends largely upon the manner in which we take advantage of our opportunities and make the best use possible of whatever talents and whatever capabilities that we may chance to possess.

The speaker's advice to every young man and woman starting out in life was that he or she select the profession or vocation for which nature had furnished the best equipment, and master that special branch thoroughly and completely, devoting their minds to the exclusive study of this one subject until it is successfully mastered. He said that at the present time the women of Mississippi had equal rights with the men, and if they took advantage of the opportunity offered them that they started out in life thoroughly equipped, not only as bread winners, but fully competent to fill the highest and most exalted positions in almost every profession.

In closing Mr. Noel paid a high tribute to the school and to the graduates which have been sent out therefrom, saying that the only absolutely accurate and reliable stenographer whom he had ever seen was a graduate of this institution. He also complimented President Kincannon upon his excellent management of the school, and upon its flourishing and prosperous condition. At the conclusion of Mr. Noel's address, Miss Mamie Weems played Gaudard's "Baccarolle," after which President Kincannon delivered certificates of proficiency in the various industrial arts to the following young ladies:

Normal Diplomas—Misses Mary Chamberlin, Mary Conner, Marguerite Eckford, Mabel Hiscox, Margaret Hodges, Claude McQuiston, Carl Molloy, Ethel Poindexter, Bessie Will Gibson.

Normal Drawing—Misses Helen Brownlee, Mary Flynn, Blanche Foose, Caroline Hand, Bessie Welsh, Margie Westmoreland.

Book Keeping—Misses Emma Chapman, Maggie Ford, Annie S. Perkins, Bernice Snddth, Beulah Fox.

Phonography—Misses Emma Armour, Odessa Banks, Fannie Beasley, Myrtle Brasher, Eunice Carr, Ethel Gauden, Belle Giles, Mattie Goza, Modesta Kirksey, Virginia Maxey, Lollie Riley, Nell Saunders, Blanche Smith, Bertie Spinks, Mary Wilkins.

Telegraphy—Misses Hattie Leech, Meta Turnage.

Dressmaking—Misses Lida Adams, Carita Brinker, Kate Butt, Carrie Chiles, Belle Giles, Maxey Hathorn, Edna Jones, Siddle Lawrence, Alice Whittington, Lallie McQuiston, Bessie Miller, Kate Miller, Ruby Mitchell, Alma Phillips, Mary Potts, Bonniel Team, Byrd Walker, Josephine White, Annie Wilson.

Photography—Misses Ruby Johnson, Civilla Pigford, Minnie M. Thrash, Mamie Weems, Annie Hand.

Voice—Miss Mary Johnson.

After those certificates had been delivered, Miss Mary Johnson, who is the only student who has ever graduated in vocal music from the institution, rendered a delightful solo, and diplomas were delivered to the following A. B. graduates:

Misses Stella Bayles, Mary Alice Edwards, Bessie Houston, Mary Johnson, Claude McQuiston, Louise Melton, Mary Montgomery, Effie Moore, Victoria Perry, Mary Potts, Margaret Scott, Mamie Weems.

The audience was made glad by the announcement from Mr. Kincannon that Miss Mattie Lou Brown, by special request, had

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DROWNED WHILE IN BATHING.

MR. FONTAINE COCKE MEETS SAD AND UNTIMELY FATE.

His Death a Severe Shock
To His Relatives and
Friends.

Just as the clocks in the towers at the college and the court house were announcing the hour of six on Tuesday afternoon, and the merchants and business men were preparing to close their doors after a day of tedious toil, the air of summer quiet and dullness which prevailed throughout the city was quickly dispelled by a runner who came up from the river with the startling announcement that Mr. Fontaine Cocke, one of the most prominent young men of the city, had lost his life by drowning. Mr. Cocke, together with Messrs. John Hale, Will Cox, L. Goodrich, J. R. N. Boyd, and one or two other companions, was in swimming in the wash hole just opposite the old Boyd saw mill, a few rods up the river, when the accident which caused his death occurred.

Mr. Cocke and his companions had been in the water for some time when, about half-past five o'clock, he started to swim across the river. He had almost completed the feat and was nearing the opposite bank when he was seized with cramp, or else his strength gave completely out, and he called to his companions for assistance. Mr. Cox, who was

the surface by Ben Johnson, a fisherman occupying a cottage near the river bank.

As soon as the body was recovered efforts to restore life were commenced and were continued for more than an hour, and under the direction of Doctors McKinley, Lipscomb and Crigler, every device known to science for resuscitating inanimate bodies was resorted to; but all were without avail. The body had been under water for more than an hour and a half, and when it was finally recovered life was completely extinct.

After all hope had been abandoned the body was removed to the residence of Mrs. S. B. Hudson, aunt of the deceased, and an effort was made to no notify his mother, Mrs. Rowena Cocke, who for the past two months has been visiting in St. Joseph, Mo., where she was the guest of her sister, Mrs. H. W. Manning. Mrs. Cocke had, however, left on Tuesday morning for San Francisco, and it was not until yesterday morning that the telegram announcing the sad intelligence of her son's death reached her, being handed her on the train at Colorado Springs, Col. Mrs. Cocke started immediately for Columbus, and is expected to reach here Sunday, on which date the funeral will probably occur.

Mr. Cocke was well known and highly esteemed both in the business and social circles of the city, and his untimely death is a severe shock, not only to his mother and other relatives, but to a large circle of sincere and devoted friends who loved him and who admired the many noble qualities which he possessed.

THE BAPTIST PICNIC.

The picnic which is to be given by the Sunday school of the First Baptist church at the "A. & M. College near Starkville next Thursday, bids fair to be one of most enjoyable of all the very

Hot Weather

Is trying these days. You can quench thirst as well as cool your body by sitting under our electric fan and drinking cold soda made pure fruits, or taking a cup of delicious sherbet.

**CURRY,
LIPSCOMB
& CAINE.**

within twenty feet of him at the time, started immediately toward him, but before he could reach his side he had sunk, and the cold waters closed over the body which, alas, was to emerge only from their depths as an icy corpse. Mr. Cocke's companions waited a few seconds, hoping that he would rise to the surface once more, but when they realized that this hope was a vain one they began diving for the body. In the meantime a large number of young men from the city had arrived upon the scene and, quickly casting aside their clothing, they, too, joined the searchers, and at one time there were more than fifty men diving within fifty feet of where the body sank from sight. The water at this immediate spot, however, is more than twenty feet deep, and all efforts to locate the body in this manner proved futile. So Mr. Cox finally procured a long fishing pole and by sounding the water located the body, which was raised to

delightful affairs heretofore given by the Sunday school. The beautiful grounds surrounding the college form an ideal spot for a day's outing, and the freedom of the campus has been generously tendered Mr. Goree, the chairman of the picnic committee, by Prof. Hardy, the distinguished president of the institution.

A special train will leave the city over the Mobile and Ohio railroad at eight o'clock Thursday morning, and returning, will leave the college at 5 p. m. The fare for the round trip will be 50 cents, children under 14 years of age half price.

Tickets are on sale at the stores of Mrs. A. M. Jobe, Messrs. Morgan, Walker & Co. and E. C. Chapman, and can also be purchased from Misses Mattie Will Walker, Sadie Cheatham and Lucile Richardson.

For Sale.

Electric fan, less than cost. G. W. SHERMAN.

HON. A. J. RUSSELL DIES SUDDENLY.

DEATH CAME VERY UNEXPECTEDLY AT STATE UNIVERSITY.

Where He Had Delivered
Address on Previous
Evening.

(Special to The Columbus Commercial.)

OXFORD, MISS., June 4th.—Sorrow and sadness prevail on the university campus this morning on account of the sudden and untimely death of Hon. A. J. Russell, speaker of the house of representatives, and candidate for governor of the state, who delivered the annual address, a magnificent one, here yesterday. At the time he was suffering greatly from sciatica, and although a physician was called during the evening, nothing serious was anticipated. When the physician left he was resting well and his friends retired, making frequent visits to his room during the night. Each time they found him perfectly quiet and he was not disturbed. About five o'clock this morning they discovered that he was dead, having passed peacefully away while asleep.

His remains will be taken to his home in Meridian on a special train this evening, being accompanied by a committee composed of Messrs. Senter, Quinn, Baskin, Southworth and Jones, from the board of trustees, and other friends.

The regular commencement exercises for this morning were to a great extent omitted, the time being devoted to reading resolutions of sympathy and regret passed by the board of trustees and faculty.

Like a Drowning Man.

"Five years ago a disease the doctors called dyspepsia took such hold of me that I could scarcely go," writes Geo. S. Marsa, well-known attorney of Nocona, Tex. "I took quantities of pepsin and other medicines but nothing helped me. As a drowning man grabs at a straw I grabbed at Kodol. I felt an improvement at once and after a few bottles am sound and well." Kodol is the only preparation which exactly reproduces the natural digestive juices and consequently is the only one which digests any good food and cures any form of stomach trouble. E. C. Chapman.

FUNERAL OF MR. F. A. COCKE.

The funeral of Mr. Fontaine A. Cocke, who was drowned while bathing in the Tombigbee river last Tuesday, was held at St. Paul's Episcopal church at 5:30 o'clock Thursday afternoon, being conducted by Rev. Robert M. Barnwell, the rector. The church was completely filled with the friends of the young man, whose sterling character and generous nature had served to gain the admiration and esteem of all with whom he came in contact. There was no young man in Columbus who was more highly respected or more universally esteemed than was Mr. Cocke. As a friend and in his social relations with his fellow-men he was just and upright and in his commercial dealings with the business world he was honest and straightforward, possessing that inborn nobility of character and true sincerity of purpose which is the birthright of all true southern gentlemen. He was the scion of a noble and distinguished race, and his sad and untimely death cut short in its infancy what gave promise of being a successful and useful career.

It was indeed unfortunate that his mother was unable to be present at the funeral, but she was in far off Colorado when the telegram announcing her son's death was received, and it was impossible for her to reach here

even in time for a last look at the face of her first born. Mr. Hartwell Cocke, a brother of the deceased, who during the past session has been attending the University of Virginia at Charlottesville, reached here Wednesday afternoon and was present at the funeral, as was also Mr. Philip St. George Cocke, at Laurel.

At the conclusion of the services at the church the remains were interred in Friendship cemetery, the following gentlemen acting as pall bearers: Messrs. John Hale, F. P. Phillips, S. B. Street, Jr., J. B. Harris, Charles Hale, Reese Frierson, Charles Sherrod, Jr., John Sale.

REMOVAL OF POSTOFFICE.

The improvement in the post-office and the fact that it may be removed from its present location in the Gilmer hotel building has been the occasion of a great deal of talk among our merchants and business men during the past week, and in response to an advertisement which Postoffice Inspector Warren recently published in the Commercial inviting bids from parties desirous of furnishing the necessary building and equipment, several flattering propositions have been made to the government.

Inspector Warren was in the city yesterday, and when seen by a Commercial reporter stated that beyond reaching the conclusion that it would be entirely impracticable to locate the office within eighty rods of the two depots that nothing definite had been decided upon. He refused to give the names of the parties from whom he received proposals or with whom he had been in consultation, but it is known that Mr. E. C. Chapman is anxious to lease to the government the Simpson building on Main street, and is willing to furnish the equipment and make all necessary alterations and improvements. The owners of the Gilmer hotel property are also anxious to have the postoffice remain in their building, and with that end in view have it is said, made a proposition contemplating many changes and improvements.

It is also rumored that the vacant lot at the southwest corner of Market and College streets, which for some time past has been owned by the Columbus Insurance and Banking Co., has been sold to parties who purchased it with the view of securing the postoffice for that section of the city, and who stand ready to erect a handsome three-story brick structure if the government will contract for its lease. The gentlemen who are supposed to be interested in this deal refused to either affirm or deny the rumor of the sale, and the bank people declined to give out any information whatever on the subject, but from the best information obtainable there seems to be little doubt of the fact that the property has changed hands and that its new owners bought it for the purpose mentioned above.

From what Inspector Warren said yesterday it will probably be some weeks before the location is made public, as his recommendation in the matter will have to be considered by the postal authorities in Washington before any definite action is taken.

PERFORMANCE TO BE REPEATED.

The operetta, "The Pixies Triumph," which was given by the school children last Thursday night was such a success and so many people did not get to see it that they have consented to reproduce it next Wednesday night for the benefit of the public library. The children who compose the play will please meet at the opera house tomorrow afternoon at 4 o'clock for rehearsals. The prices will be the same as those which prevailed Wednesday night. Tickets on sale at Mayo & Weaver's drug store at nine o'clock tomorrow morning.

Fresh ice cream daily, choice fruit flavors. Mayo and Weaver.

LIBRARY TO BE KEPT OPEN.

Franklin Academy Library will be kept open during the summer months. It will be kept open every Wednesday afternoon from 4 to 7 o'clock. At these hours the following ladies will attend to the library on the designated days: Miss Worthington—June 11th and June 18th. Miss Stokes—June 25th and July 2nd. Miss Shields—July 9th and July 16th. Miss Lanier—July 23rd and July 30th. M. S. Patterson—Aug. 7th and Aug. 14th. Miss Mayo—Aug. 21st and Aug. 28th. Miss Martin—Sept. 3rd and Sept. 10th. Miss Boden—Sept. 17th and Sept. 24th.

DEATH OF MRS. J. E. HOUSTON.

The death of Mrs. J. E. Houston, which occurred at her home in Aberdeen last Tuesday, was the cause for much sorrow in Columbus. Mrs. Houston, who before her marriage was Miss Willie Cox, was the daughter of Mr. Charles Cox, of this county, and much of her girlhood was spent in Columbus. She was not only the possessor of rare personal beauty, but was possessed also of a noble character and gentle disposition, which secured for her the admiration and esteem of countless friends.

The sympathy of the community is extended to the grief-stricken husband and father in their sad bereavement.

OFFICERS ELECTED.

The regular semi-annual election of the Columbus tent of Macabees was held last Wednesday night, resulting as follows: B. N. Love, commander; C. E. Eubanks, lieutenant commander; S. B. Schwab, R. K.; W. L. Bowlin, F. K.; E. H. Childers, chaplain; W. C. Brewer, physician; T. A. Eggleston Jr., surgeon; A. J. Lussey, M. of A.; T. W. Rowe, 1st M. of G.; C. A. Wakefield, 2nd M. of G.; T. L. Eggleston Jr., sentinel; J. H. Williams, picket.

The tent now has about eighty members and is in a most prosperous condition. The paraphernalia for the organization has been shipped, and will arrive in time for the next regular meeting, which occurs on Wednesday, June 18th.

CATHOLIC PRIESTS EXCHANGE PLACES.

Father Bernard O'Riley, who for some time past has had charge of the Church of the Annunciation in this city, and Father J. A. Hipple, formerly in charge of the Catholic church at Sulphur Springs, Miss., have exchanged places. Father O'Riley going to Sulphur Springs and Father Hipple here. The change was occasioned by the fact that the condition of Father Hipple's health was not good at Sulphur Springs and Bishop Heslein ordered the change, thinking that he might be benefited by it.

Father O'Riley is a conscientious priest and a gentleman of urbane and polished manners who, during his sojourn in Columbus, has gained the respect and esteem of all with whom he has been thrown in contact. Father Hipple, his successor, is well known here, having served the church as priest for a short time several years since, and is extended a most cordial welcome to the city.

Dangerous if Neglected.

Burns, cuts and other wounds often fail to heal properly if neglected and become troublesome sores. DeWitt's Witch Hazel Salve prevents such consequences. Even where delay has aggravated the injury DeWitt's Witch Hazel Salve effects a cure. "I had a running sore on my legs thirty years," says H. C. Hartly, Yanketown, Ind. "After using many remedies, I tried DeWitt's Witch Hazel Salve. A few boxes healed the sore." Cures all skin diseases. Piles yield to it at once. Beware of counterfeits. E. C. Chapman.